

North Pacific Fishery Management Council

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ADVISORY PANEL MINUTES Westward Hilton Hotel Anchorage, Alaska December 6, 1981

The Advisory Panel met on Sunday, December 6, 1981, in the Alaska Room of the Westward Hilton Hotel from 10:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. The following members were present: F. Greg Baker, Robert Blake, Alvin Burch, Larry Cotter, Jesse Foster, Richard Goldsmith, Weaver Ivanoff, Joseph Kurtz, Richard Lauber, Raymond Lewis, Kristy Long, Don Rawlinson, Lewis Schnaper, Jeffrey Stephan, and Chairman Robert Alverson.

A. CALL TO ORDER AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The meeting was called to order by Advisory Panel member Joe Kurtz. The agenda was approved by all AP members. Minutes of the September 23 Advisory Panel meeting were approved as read.

B. SPECIAL REPORTS

B-1 Executive Director's Report. The Executive Director's Report was presented by Clarence Pautzke.

B-2 Domestic Fisheries Report by Alaska Department of Fish and Game. At the time this agenda item was presented there was no one present to give a report.

B-3 Foreign Fisheries Report by National Marine Fisheries Service. No report was given.

B-4 Enforcement and Surveillance Report by U.S. Coast Guard. No report was given.

B-5 Joint-Venture Operations. (All joint-venture applications were taken up under agenda item D-1.)

(a) Marine Resources Company. Mike Stevens from Marine Resources gave a brief report on U.S. and Soviet operations and future planned operations.

(b) Korea/Fish Producers Associates. There was no report presented.

- (c) Nordstern/U.S. John Schmiedtke presented a report and answered questions from the Advisory Panel. Additional comments can be found under agenda item D-1.
- (d) Taiwan/Pribilof-Highly SeaProducts, Inc. Mike Jones gave a brief report and indicated that payment of \$150,000.00 had been deposited into the capital construction fund which was set up when the Council gave approval of this operation.
- (e) Polish/Mrs. Paul's Kitchen. No report was received.

B-6 AP and SSC Reports on Non-Agenda Items. No reports were presented under this agenda item.

C. OLD BUSINESS

C-1 King and Tanner Crab Observer Program. It was announced that this observer program would take place Monday night at 5:00 p.m. in the Alaska Room. All Advisory Panel members representing crab interests were asked to participate.

C-2 Update Council Workgroups. There were several additions to groups from various members of the Advisory Panel. (Should I write them out?)

C-3 Free Port Status. The Advisory Panel received a report from Larry Cotter regarding the issue and the potential gains for Alaskan employment. The AP decided not to make a decision on supporting the idea of a free port until additional information was received. A motion to support a free port status in the Dutch Harbor area was tabled until further information was received.

C-4 Foreign Processing in State Waters. The Advisory Panel did not want to take a position on this until they had received a briefing on decisions arrived at by the State's Task Force, which met on November 30th. The AP would like to comment after receiving a report on any suggested direction that the State's Task Force has finalized on this issue.

C-5 Other Old Business as Appropriate. No action was taken under this agenda item.

D. NEW BUSINESS

D-1 Review of Permit Applications.

- (a) Polish Vessel ANDROMEDA. In light of 1981 alleged violations the Advisory Panel suggest that if substantial fines are assessed against the owners of the ANDROMEDA that the permit for 1982 be revoked.
- (b) USSR Vessel SULAK. The Advisory Panel recommends approval of the joint-venture permit for the SULAK with the deletion of their request for 5,000 mt of Pacific herring.

- (c) Nordstern/Fishing Vessels FRIEDRICH BUSSE and REGULUS. The Advisory Panel recommends that these applications be approved pending the outcome of the allegations against the FRIEDRICH BUSSE. If serious violations are found it is recommended that the permits be revoked.

The Advisory Panel debated the issue for a considerable period of time. The past violations as well as consideration of the failure of Nordstern's commitment to purchase groundfish products from shore-based facilities were discussed. The AP heard comments from John Martin of Alaska Foods who originally signed a contract with Nordstern for bottomfish. Alaska Foods was generally displeased with the lack of purchases from Nordstern.

The Advisory Panel heard from John Schmiedtke representing Nordstern who indicated that Alaska Foods' packaging procedures were not adequate and that Alaska Foods had not responded to Nordstern's suggestion to have a Nordstern representative supervising the packaging process.

- D-2 Revisions to SOPPs. No action was taken.
- D-3 Format for Renegotiated GIFA's. No action was taken.
- D-4 Other New Business As Appropriate. No action taken.

E. FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLANS

- E-1 Salmon FMP. Jim Glock gave a presentation on salmon issues from the Council staff.

- (a) PDT/PMT Membership for Tribal Representative. The following motion was passed with the opposing.

The Advisory Panel passed a motion objecting to the appointment of a tribal representative to the troll salmon PDT. The reasons are:

- (1) Treaty Indians are only a subset of Oregon and Washington user groups and as such have no special status before the NPFMC.
- (2) The recent Craig decision did not require this action.
- (3) As no other Alaska, Washington or Oregon user groups are represented on the PDT, it would be unfair to include the treaty Indians on this panel.

No other action was taken under this agenda item.

- E-2 Herring FMP. Jim Glock gave a presentation on herring issues from the Council staff.

There was discussion concerning the proposed closure of the herring savings areas to domestic trawl activity. The areas were closed to foreign fishermen.

The question arose does the Council need a policy change so as to not limit domestic fishing by a herring AIC.

The following motion was defeated 9 to 5.

In view of the Council policy so far as Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands Amendment #3 the Advisory Panel recommends to the Council that all reference to U.S. trawling activity being curtailed be eliminated.

- E-3 King Crab FMP. The Advisory Panel recommends that the hearing in Seattle take place either the second or third week in March, preferably the third week. There was concern of having the meeting the first week in March by various industry representatives due to time commitments.
- E-4 Tanner Crab FMP. With respect to the discussion on the pot storage issue the Advisory Panel unanimously adopted these suggestions from the last meeting. In brief, that was to convene the ad Hoc committee on pot storage in the Bering Sea and invite appropriate NMFS enforcement personnel and ADF&G representatives.
- E-5 Gulf of Alaska Groundfish FMP. The Advisory Panel consensus was that it was important to take action on Amendment #11 now rather than wait until March 1982. The following action was taken.

- (a) The AP adopted the proposed management objectives for sablefish presented by the PMT on page 6 of the PMT report. This was adopted with three in opposition.
- (b) Alternatives for OY. The Advisory Panel adopted Alternative 2 which would set a Gulf-wide OY of 3,500 mt. This passed 7 to 6.

Those in favor of this motion felt blackcod stocks were severely depressed and felt that a reduction of this magnitude would rebuild the resource quickest and U.S. industry would be better served in the future with increased abundance and marketable sizes.

The opposing views were as follows. There was considerable debate on this issue. In particular, the economic analysis was questioned because it did not take into account supplies of sablefish from British Columbia, Washington, Oregon or California; it only examined ice boats and not foreign longliners, nor did it adequately address the economic problem taking substantial amounts of product off the market and then reintroducing the product. There was also concern that a low OY would hurt potential U.S. vessels that wanted to participate this year in blackcod fishing.

- (c) Percent allocations between management areas. The Advisory Panel recommends the PMT's proposal to maintain the current percent allocation in the Gulf of Alaska. This was passed with one in opposition.
- (d) The NPL proposal to allow foreign fishing in the Davidson Bank Area. As the U.S. industry is expanding into this area in the salt cod fishery and bait fishery it was unanimously recommended that this area not be opened.

- (e) ALFA proposal to make sablefish an exclusive longline fishery. The Advisory Panel tabled further discussion on this until various industry personnel could discuss the issues and more scientific information were presented.
- (f) The ALFA proposal for a winter closure. The Advisory Panel recommended not to have a winter closure this time until further information were made available.
- (g) Reporting Requirements. The Advisory Panel unanimously supported the teams recommendation for reports by radio.

On adjustment of DAH the Advisory Panel recommends reducing TALFF by 20% for cod and pollock and adding this to reserves due to the increase in domestic shoreside, salt cod fishery and joint-venture authority. This was passed with 3 against and 1 abstention.

Those in opposition felt this was an improper method of stimulating foreign demand for Alaskan fish.

E-6 Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands Groundfish FMP.

- (a) The Advisory Panel recommended that the TALFF for cod and pollock be reduced by 20% due to expanding joint-venture activities. This position was adopted with 3 against and 1 abstention.
- (b) The Advisory Panel felt that the restrictions on domestic fishermen of 1% incidental catch of halibut in the pot sanctuary area should be considered for the January meeting.

F. CONTRACTS, PROPOSALS, AND FINANCIAL REPORTS

The Advisory Panel recommended approval for the RFP for Halibut Limited Entry.